

What is claimed is:

1. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request that whether the received electronic money is valid or not be checked; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the data to be information-processed.

2. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

relating the received data to be information-processed and the electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request that whether the received electronic money is valid or not be checked; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed related to the electronic money confirmed to be valid.

3. An electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, data to be
information-processed and electronic money by which payment for
information processing is made;

associating the data with the electronic money;

making a request that whether the received electronic money
is valid or not be checked; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid,
starting the processing of the data which is associated with
the valid electronic money.

4. A system for making payment by electronic money in which a
user side subsystem including a user's terminal, an electronic
money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing
server and a processor side subsystem including a data processor
that performs a processing based on processing request data from
the user are connected to one another through a network,

wherein the processing request data and electronic money
data including electronic money issued by the electronic money
issuer side subsystem are transmitted from the user side
subsystem to the processor side subsystem, the electronic money
data is further transmitted from the processor side subsystem
to the electronic money issuer side subsystem, whether the
electronic money is valid or not is checked, and the processor
side subsystem performs the processing based on the processing
request data in accordance with a result of the check and transmits

a request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem.

5. An electronic money processor comprising:

receiving member which receives processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed, and electronic money data transmitted from the user through the network and including electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer;

memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored;

transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money is valid or not; and

execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in the memory in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money.

6. An electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data including the electronic money.

7. An image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an image forming portion in which execution of the processing based on the processing request data is controlled by the execution control means of the electronic money processor.